

The Criminal's Favorite Target, Larceny From Automobiles

By Officer T. Abele/Community Services

In 1999 there were 3,850 Larceny From Automobiles and in 2000, 4,114 incidents; that's a 7% increase. Projections for 2001 indicate there will be another increase. The reality of the situation is the Police Department can only clear a small number of these cases with an arrest. Why? Simply put, the odds of catching a criminal in the act of breaking into someone's car are extremely small based upon the size of Lincoln and the small number of Police Officers working the street.

So, what are citizens left with? **Prevention.** To keep from becoming a victim involves knowing what makes a good target for a theft. ***Here is a list of property most often stolen from vehicles:*** Gym bags, checkbooks, brief cases, purses, laptop computers, sunglasses, compact disks, radar detectors, CD players, speakers, hand/power tools and/or tool boxes, and even spare change. If these items are in plain sight, the car is a great target. Basically if the property isn't bolted down, the criminal will steal it. Ultimately the question comes up about what the thieves do with the property they steal? Many times the items are sold or traded between thieves. A small amount of property can be pawned for quick cash. If a checkbook and I.D. are taken, the thieves will use those items right away at 24 hour businesses.

How do criminals get into a vehicle? Simple, they just smash the closest window

with whatever is at hand. Some do use a screwdriver or knife or just try the door handle to see if it's locked. Recently the Police Department talked with some well-known criminals who, for their own reasons, stated some of their "methods of operation": looking for cars with nice wheel rims or brand name stereo stickers in the windows; just "cruising around" to find someone with a loud car stereo and then follow them. In most cases they would just prowl the neighborhood looking into parked cars.

Now, how can someone prevent a thief from breaking into a vehicle? Avoid parking in the street. If the street is the only option, park in a well-lit, well-traveled area. Parking in a well-secured garage is the best plan. Place all valuables out of sight, in the trunk or better yet, bring them into the house at night. Once all valuables are secure, lock the vehicle.

All it takes is for a victim to leave anything of value in plain sight and "BANG" the side window is broken and valuables removed. Don't become a victim. Mark all your property and record all serial numbers on higher value items. Make yourself an uninviting target. **Report all suspicious activity in your neighborhood.**

PREPARING PETS FOR WINTER AND THE HOLIDAYS.

By Officer Kris Johnson/Animal Control

As the seasons change, it brings new challenges, especially if you own a pet. Some of these challenges pet owners can be prepared for, such as Christmas and New Years. However, in regards to the weather, think again. Nebraska weather can be very unpredictable. Pet owners who have outside pets need to make sure their pets have access to adequate shelter AT ALL TIMES. It needs to be weather proof in order to keep the pet/s dry. A flap over the entrance is recommended. Many owners have installed doors so the pet has access into a garage or the house. If you observe an animal outside without any protection, contact Animal Control as soon as possible.

Animals and holidays are not always a perfect match. Christmas is a holiday that can become dangerous and frustrating to owners and animals alike. Owners can help Christmas be safe if a few precautions are taken: when putting up a Christmas

tree remember that cats love to climb; don't put food on your tree; place ornaments where they are out of reach. (cats may think that you put up a new cat tree full of new cat toys!); binding electrical cords together or placing them out of reach may prevent a deadly accident; when placing presents under the tree, do not wrap up food. (dogs have great noses!). Many cat owners also wait until the last day to put ribbons and bows on presents. Sorry, it's just inviting to cats. Also keep in mind that some holiday plants are toxic such as mistletoe, poinsettias and holly. A little prevention and precaution may make this season a wonderful time for everyone, people and animals alike.



IDENTITY THEFT

Identity Theft is a crime where someone takes personal data from another person and uses it to commit a fraud or deception for economic gain. Examples of identifying numbers that can be stolen and then used include Social Security, bank account, personal identification (PIN), or credit card.

Criminals can obtain these numbers by watching over your shoulder at an ATM, listening as you give numbers over a phone, or by digging through trash to get receipts or bank statements. If you receive pre-approved credit card applications they could be stolen from your mail before you get them. The internet is also a source used by some criminals to obtain or trade identifying numbers.

Once a thief has stolen a name and some identifying numbers they can apply for loans, credit cards, steal money from existing accounts or purchase merchandise. If account statements and bills are forwarded to an address other than the victim's, the crime may not be discovered until after significant damage and loss has occurred.

To avoid becoming a victim of identity theft there are several things you can do. Be careful to whom you give your identifying numbers. Deal with people and businesses that you are familiar with or whom you know are reputable. Shred papers that include identifying numbers so they can't be retrieved from the trash. Check over your bank and credit card statements every month to look for any unauthorized transactions. Also ask for a copy of your credit report. The credit report would list all bank and financial accounts under your name so you can readily find if there are any

unauthorized accounts.

If you discover that you are a victim of identity theft you should call your local law enforcement agency immediately to make a report. Also, call and make a report to the Federal Trade commission at 1-800-382-4357 or online at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

You can call three credit agencies to request that a "Fraud Alert" be attached to your credit report:

Equifax	1-800-685-1111
Experian	1-800-397-3742
Transunion	1-800-680-7293

Also contact all the businesses where your accounts have been fraudulently used so you can stop payment or have those accounts closed. Once you have put a stop to the fraudulent accounts or transactions you may need to get a new Personal Identification Number (PIN), new ATM cards or new account numbers.

Identity Theft is a crime and Congress is continuing to enhance or create laws to address these situations. The Nebraska Attorney General Consumer Protection Division is also very active in providing information to educate citizens about this problem. As people become more aware of Identity Theft we can prevent it from happening.

GANG ISSUES By Inv Ric Lutz

In twenty years, gang membership has exploded across the United States and now total about 1 –2 million across the United States. As gangs continue to grow in the future, we will all feel the effect.

A community prevent gangs by learning more about them. The Lincoln Police Department has speakers who will share information with you. Additionally, you can sharpen your skills as a parent and/or organize a Neighborhood Watch Program.

When you observe gang graffiti, report it to police immediately, then remove it by painting over or erasing it as soon as possible. Ensure that local youth have ample recreational activities and after-school programs. Become involved in your neighborhood. When you observe problems, contact the proper authorities to deal with them. Work with your nearby school, law enforcement, religious and city officials to ensure that youth are provided with a safe environment for educational, social and recreational activities. Whenever possible, provide services to youth,

especially those considered high-risk. Conduct an accurate assessment of the level of gang problems, both in the community and at schools. Use parents and volunteers to help monitor campuses and bus stops both before and after school. Talk to your kids about gangs, and just as important listen to what they have to say.

Parents and teachers should not jump to hasty conclusions about their children and gangs. The warning signs of gang involvement can be similar to normal behavior during adolescence. The key is to question the behavior if it appears to go beyond the norm. If you have questions about gangs, please contact the Lincoln Police Department at 441-7204 or Inv Lutz at 441-8178.

CRIMINAL CENTRAL

The Lincoln Police Department is looking for several local individuals that have three or more outstanding warrants. Some of these criminals have been “ducking” the law for up to two years. We need your help in bringing all these individuals in to face up to their responsibilities. If you see any of these individuals or have tips on where Law (All warrants current as of 11-15-2001) Enforcement might



Robert L. Nelson W/M
DOB: 7-24-1976
5ft 9in, 140lbs
Eyes: Green
Hair: Red/Auburn
Warrants: LPD/LSO
2 Assault
Trespassing
Driving Suspended
Making False Statement to
Police Officer
Fail To Appear in Court
Last Address: 1340 Plum St.
Last address: 1340 Plum St



Elizabeth S. LaPointe W/F
DOB: 10-27-1976
5ft 2in, 110lbs
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown
Warrants: LPD
Possess Stolen Property
Suspended Driving
Possess Stolen Property
Suspended Driving
Last address: 920 S. 16 St #1



Courtney Jarrod Savage B/M
DOB: 01-07-1982
5ft 6in, 150lbs
Eyes: Brown Hair: Black
Warrants: LPD/LSO
Steal Money or Goods
Trespassing
Refusal Comply w/ Police
DWI
Last Address: 152 N. 32 St. #23



**THESE INDIVIDUALS
WERE LOCATED AND
WENT TO JAIL.**



Anthony L. Gray



Calvin James Crocker W/M
DOB: 08-21-1970
5ft 10in, 170lbs
Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown
Warrants: LPD/LSO
Disturbing the Peace x 2
Trespassing x 2
Urinating in Public
Consume Alcohol in Public
Possession Drug Paraphernalia
Parks Violation
Last Address: 2410 Vine St #2



Kerisse D. Stubblefield B/F
DOB: 10-15-1979
5ft 7in, 150lbs
Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown
Warrants: LPD/LSO
3 separate warrants for
Suspended Driving
Vandalism
Narcotics/Intent To Deliver
Last Address: 706 S. 46 St.



Antonio Williams



The "EYE"

Neighborhood Watch

Lincoln Police Dept
575 S. 10th St.
Lincoln NE, 68508

Return Service Requested



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

By Captain Bob Wilhelm/SW Team

Hola! Mi nombre es Roberto Wilhelm. Yo soy un capita'n del equipo de policia Lincoln suroeste. Nosotros estamos aqui' a server a usted.

Hello! My name is Bob Wilhelm. I am the captain of the Lincoln Police department's Southwest Team. We are here to serve you.

We would like to introduce you to some facts you may find interesting, particularly if you live in the Southwest Team area. The police services this area receives are provided by 37 commissioned police officers, 5 sergeants, 1 detective, 1 public service officer and 1 captain. The east boundary of our team is 27th street, the north boundary is approximately "G" street, and the city limits are the boundaries on both the south and west.

As you know the south and west boundaries of the city are rapidly expanding with new residential and retail construction. Add to this the new Southwest High School that will open next year, the new YMCA complex, the Bess Dodson Walt Branch Library, and ball fields which are all located on South 14th street across from Lincoln Memorial Cemetery (all to open in the next few months). All of this will increase the demand for our police resources.

We are excited to have a Lincoln Police Department work station in the new Bess Dodson Walt Branch Library. This will be an excellent location on our growing team area and a welcomed addition to our other work stations; a 2020 "G" street, and in the Center Pointe building at 13th and "E" street. Although we will not have office hours, or people there on a regular schedule, our officers will be in and out 24 hours a day. We are also looking forward to having a work station in the new "F" Street Recreational Center upon its

completion this spring at which time we will move from our Center Pointe location to the new center at 13th and "F" street.

Recently, we have experienced an increase in residential burglaries in the Southwest area. The offenses are occurring during the day time or early evening hours. In some cases we have had reports of two males being seen in the area during the time in which the offense occurred. Protecting yourself from being the victim of a property crime doesn't involve a great deal of effort. Removing the opportunity for a thief by simply closing your garage door or removing valuable items from plain view **before** you lock your vehicle will decrease your chances of victimization considerably. I would also encourage you to be active in your neighborhood association and if you don't have one please consider establishing one. The familiarity created by such an organization, along with your increased knowledge of the neighborhood, are a great advantage in tipping you off that something is wrong when you see it. Participation in a group like this makes you feel like you are a part of a smaller, more caring, community.

We would like to remind you to not hesitate calling the police when you are suspicious about a person, vehicle or incident you may have witnessed. **We really DO NOT have anything better to do!!**